

Speaking sculptures

Resistencia, Provincia de Chaco. December 2007.

For the anniversary of the *Masacre de Margarita Belén*¹ we made this collective and participatory intervention on the sculptures of the city.



CONTEXT:

The city of Resistencia, Chaco, is full of sculptures along its streets. This special characteristic is founded in an old urban planning that aimed to transform the city into a touristic center of cultural attraction. Indeed, Chaco is well known for its sculpture art contests. The public spaces are plagued of different and eclectic styles of spacial objects and constructions.



¹ Clandestine execution of political prisoners by the military forces in december of 1976, in Margarita Belén, Chaco, Argentina.

GOAL:

We decided to resignify them, creating new meanings and functions of these objects, to remind people that memory is present in the heart of the city.

STRATEGIES AND TOOLS:

The approaching strategy is inspired on the principle of distancing: the disruptive device of the cartoon balloon surprises the passersby because its aesthetic is completely different from the traditional materials and shapes of the sculptures. At the same time, the message become more visible because the sculpture is “talking”.

We made a workshop with people who attended to the commemoration act, allowing them to write their thoughts or reflections about “memory” contents on the balloons. Most of them were already aware of this subject. They knew enough about this historic event. But the message was addressed to those who didn't have information, and are not human rights activists either.



The balloons were placed on statues, trees and other spacial objects around the park in the center of the city. They were set in different orientations to be discovered occasionally, while walking through the space.

